Mrs. Whitney

Living Environment

Invasive Species Research Project - Assignment Guide

**The Task:** To investigate the path of a second-generation invasive species problem and present your findings in multimedia format on the class wiki.

**Part I: The Research**

You will work collaboratively in groups of three students to conduct the research using the library’s databases and selected websites.

Choose your topic and research the Problem/Solution/Second-Generation Problem path that was created when a non native invasive species was introduced in the environment. In other words, why was a certain species brought to an area? What problem or issue were people trying to solve? In trying to solve one problem, another was created.

Make sure that in your research you define the primary problem (its not always the subject of your topic choice) and outline the proposed solution to the primary problem. How did the proposed “solution” cause a secondary problem?

**Part II: The Presentation**

The presentation should clearly outline and explain the Problem/Solution/Second-Generation Problem path that was created when a non native invasive species was introduced in the environment.

You will work with your group members to organize your findings in an attractive presentation on the class wiki. Presentations should be multimedia in format. That is, they should contain some combination of text, audio, still images, animation, video, or interactive content.

**The Process:**

1. Go to the SHA library media center web page at <http://www.myteacherpages.com/webpages/LBiniszkiewicz/>

Choose **Mrs. Whitney** from the left side menu for a list of databases and websites that are to be used for this project. The page is password protected and the password is **research**.

1. You will need to create an account with Wikispaces. You will use the class wiki as a collaborative work space to collect and organize your findings and citations. The class wiki is divided into Group Pages for research and presentation, use the research pages to collect information and presentation pages for the final product. Cite all your research sources on your group’s Works Cited page in MLS format (you can use NoodleTools to create the citations).

Create an account with Wikispaces.com at the following address <http://www.wikispaces.com/user/join>.

1. Find the wiki for *your* class at <http://invasivespeciesi.wikispaces.com/> **- PERIOD 3**

<http://invasivespeciesii.wikispaces.com/> **- PERIOD 6**

<http://invasivespeciesiii.wikispaces.com/> **- PERIOD 9**

Explore the wiki, become familiar with the layout and the functions of the space.

1. Begin your research and use your group’s research pages to record your findings. Collaborate with your group members throughout the research process.
2. Create a multimedia presentation of your research findings. Your presentation should adequately explain the Problem/Solution/Second-Generation Problem path of the topic you chose. Make it visually interesting, this is the fun part!
3. Look at other group’s findings and presentations.

**Requirements:**

* Give the genus species name and common name of all organisms discussed. Be sure to adhere to the rules for writing species names.
* All research must appear on the group research page of the class wiki. Use this page to link to articles you’ve found, copy and paste important facts, and leave comments and questions for the members of your group.
* Have at least three sources appropriately cited in MLA format on your group’s Works Cited page.
* All members of the group must contribute and collaborate equally.
* Presentations should be multimedia in format. That is, they should contain some combination of text, audio, still images, animation, video, or interactive content.

**Topics:**

Choose one topic to explore per group. Note that the topic heading is not necessarily the initial problem in the problem/solution/second-generation path.

* Rabbits in Australia
* Cane Toads in Australia
* Kudzu in the Southeast United States
* Spotted Knapweed in the Western United States
* Rats in the Caribbean